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FOREIGN DEPARTMENT

IN CHARGE OF

LAVINIA L. DOCK



ORGANIZATION NOTES

MRS. FENWICK is working with even more than her accustomed energy, if that be possible, in the registration movement in England, travelling, giving addresses, and organizing. At a recent meeting of the Society for Registration she, as honorary secretary, reported that the president had suggested that the work of the society and the question of registration of nurses should be set forth more fully than in the "Memorandum" in use. She therefore begged to submit the rough draft of a pamphlet on the question, touching on the history of State registration of nurses at home and abroad, the imperative need of registration, the tests of a profession, the need for the endowment of nursing education, organization, and legislation. It was agreed that consideration be given to the statement at an early date, that it be submitted to the annual meeting, and, when approved, issued in pamphlet form. It was unanimously agreed that such a pamphlet would meet a great need.

LETTERS

MISS BAXTER writes from Naples of her work:

"OSPEDALE CLINICO, April 7, 1903.

". . . Our school is growing slowly but surely, and has come to be looked upon as one of the institutions of the city, so that only last week we were asked if we could undertake the nursing also in the big Incurable Hospital. Unfortunately, our number is too small for such a colossal undertaking, and we have had to give up the idea for the present. During the first years we were obliged to accept women of all classes for lack of choice, and the consequence was that those of inferior social standing have dropped out little by little, leaving only those possessed of the moral and intellectual qualities required by our profession. We are able, now that our position is assured, to choose our nurses from respectable middle-class families, but owing to our exclusiveness we cannot for the present get as many as we need.

"The few graduates who have remained, however, have more work than they can manage, for the doctors are beginning to recognize their utility, and, indeed, in the hospital where we were once despised and ridiculed we are now appreciated and sought after. The best proof of this lies in the fact that when two new wards were thrown open last month the chief, Professor d'Antona, requested me officially to let him have enough nurses to run them, and his assistants were even heard to say that they could not be opened without us. We have now one hundred and ten beds.

"Another very satisfactory step in advance was the request of Professor Bianchi, one of the greatest neurologists of this country, for two nurses to take charge of the clinic for nervous diseases which has just been opened at S. Andrea delle Dame. They are now duly installed and working satisfactorily. Another graduate is in charge of one of the surgical wards and operating-rooms of this hospital, the two other surgical departments for want of means being still in charge of pupil nurses. Three graduates run the massage department of the Poliambulanza Medica, and one of them has been so successful that she has opened a gabinetto di massaggio on her own account. Two more are still in the Roman and Florentine hospitals, where they were when I made my last report.

"The following is the translation of the paper showing our movements during last year:

Private cases	67
Graduates employed as head nurses in hospitals and clinics	7
Graduate in charge of the hygienic dispensary of the Pro Infantia Society	1
Pupil nurses in training	9
Probationers	7

We could have employed even more of our graduates as head nurses, but have had to refuse various positions, owing to the ridiculously low offers made. Several chiefs who have recognized the necessity of trained nursing have placed the figure at twenty-five to thirty francs a month, *i.e.*, five to six dollars, whereas the graduates earn by private nursing from eighteen to thirty dollars a month. . . ."

ITEMS

POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION FOR NURSES.—We recorded last month the steps taken by the Matrons' Council to arrange for a special course in hospital economics. The last number of the *British Journal of Nursing* says: "At a meeting of the Board of Education of Bedford College for Women, which was held on Monday, Mrs. Bedford Fenwick and Miss Isla Stewart, who attended by invitation, were afforded an opportunity of conferring with the Board on the desirability of establishing a post-graduate course in hospital economics for certificated nurses in order to qualify them for the higher posts in their profession.

"The conference resulted in the appointment of a sub-committee, which was deputed to submit a draft scheme to the board preparatory to approaching the authorities of nurse-training schools, with the object of eliciting from them an expression of opinion on the whole subject."

DURING last month the Colonial Nursing Association of Great Britain has been asked by the Foreign Office to select two nurses for East Africa. This is a new connection for the association, and one which promises to be very interesting, as Mombasa, where the nurses will probably be stationed at first, is the terminus of the new Uganda Railway, and this suggests the possibility of the Colonial Nursing Association nurses being eventually sent inland up the line, as the European population extends perhaps even as far as Port Florence, on the Victoria Nyanza, the western terminus of the railway.

THE London School Nurses' Society, which is doing good work in public elementary schools in London, is appealing for increased support to enable it to extend the sphere of its operations. Of the one thousand schools in London the society is only able at present to send nurses to seventy-five. Subscriptions may be sent to Miss Susan Lawrence, 44 Westbourne Terrace, London, W. The Board of Education has expressed high approval of the work of the nurses.

NURSING IN SMYRNA.—A correspondent sends an interesting account of her nursing experiences in Smyrna to a recent number of *The Hospital*. She says: "A nurse has to be ready in case of emergency, as very sudden development of dangerous symptoms takes place, and the doctor cannot be found quickly, there being no telephonic communication at all, as the Turks, imagining the telephone is a means used for communicating with the Evil One, forbid its use."

THE last report of the Royal National Pension Fund for Nurses in England claims a flourishing condition, greater economy in business management, and better results than in any previous year. We cannot but feel sorry that pension funds for nurses are necessary, as we believe that under an equitable arrangement of society they would be well enough paid to be able to take care of themselves.

THE death of Miss Gordon, who was for a long time matron of St. Thomas's Hospital in London, is recorded in the English journals as having taken place on March 22. It was in St. Thomas's Hospital, but before Miss Gordon's day, that Miss Nightingale established the first English Training-School for Nurses.

MISS ANNIE HOBBS has been appointed secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association, having assumed her duties at the beginning of April. Miss Hobbs was trained at the West London Hospital.

